

caudatus of Etienne St. Hilaire (Ann. du Mus. 1812, p. 166). It is, however, in my opinion, entirely distinct. The specimen in the collection of the Academy, from the Du Chaillu collection, though adult, as may be seen by the examination of the skull, is at least one-third smaller than the typical specimen of the *G. crassicaudatus* in the Paris museum; the nose is more pointed, and the general coloration very different.

The white tip of the tail, which is considered by Dr. Gray as accidental, I regard as a well-marked specific character, it being plainly indicated in two very young specimens, presented to the Academy by Dr. H. A. Ford several years since. One of these is decolorized by having been preserved in alcohol; the other is entirely of a dark slate color, with the exception of the white apex of the tail.

A curious typographical error is to be found in Maj. Le Conte's description of this species: the head is described as 1 foot 9 inches in length; for "head" read—for muzzle to tip of tail.

DAUBENTONIA MADAGASCARENENSIS Etienne St. Hilaire, Decade Philosophique, t. iv. p. 193, 1795.

Cheiromys Madagascarensis Cuvier, Anat. Comparée, vol. i. 1800; Dict. des Sciences Nat.

This most curious mammal, whose place in the scale of nature was for a long time a point of discussion between the most eminent European naturalists, and which, even at the present day, has been regarded by some as a rodent (vide Tenney, Natural History, &c., N. Y., 1865, p. 2, fig. 57), though the manner of growth of its incisors is entirely different from that of the rodentia, was first described by the elder St. Hilaire under the generic name of *Daubentonia*, in 1795. In 1800, Cuvier, who long held that the creature was a rodent, re-described it under the name of *Cheiromys*, $\chi\epsilon\iota\rho, \mu\alpha\nu\sigma; \mu\acute{\upsilon}\sigma, \mu\upsilon\sigma$. In the Diction. des Sciences Naturelles, 1816, Art. Aye Aye, he gives his reason for the change, made, it is said, with the consent of the original discoverer, in the following words: "Nous avons préféré *Cheiromys*, parceque l'usage de donner des noms d'homme n'est point recu en zoologie comme en botanique." Is this sufficient ground for a change? In our opinion certainly not, unless the absurd rule first promulgated by the French naturalists, which would compel us to "considérer comme non *avenus* (*toutefois en les citant en synonymie*) les noms tombés en désuétude" (*Is. Geoff. St. Hilaire, Cat. des Primates, p. xi.*) should be generally adopted, which would still further confuse the work of zoological nomenclature, begun by Adam, and far from being completed at the present day.

April 2d.

The President, DR. HAYS, in the Chair.

Thirty-eight members present.

The following papers were presented for publication:

"On dioicæus forms of *Vitis vinifera*." By Thomas Meehan.

The death was announced of Dr. George Jäger, of Stuttgart, Correspondent.

April 9th.

The President, DR. HAYS, in the Chair.

Thirty-six members present.

The following papers were presented for publication:

"Description of New Texan Myriapoda." By Dr. H. C. Wood, Jr.

[April,